

COVID-19

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health What to expect when your child goes back to elementary school

Preparing your child for what they'll find at school will help them adjust and be ready to learn. We cover the basics here. If you want to know more about the rules schools are required to follow, you can find them at: [Re-opening Protocols for K-12 Schools](#).

Parents will need to:

- **Conduct a symptom check** and fill out the screener form every day before your child heads to school.
 - If your child is not well or someone in your household has COVID-19, please keep your child home until the quarantine period has passed or your child is better.
- **Make sure your child arrives** at school at the required time. Be sure they wear a mask and stay 6 feet from others at drop-off. If you get out of your car or arrive on foot, you should also be masked and practice social distancing. Your child's temperature may be read when they arrive.
- **Plan before visiting:** Do not enter the campus during school hours, unless arranged in advance with the teacher and permitted by the principal.

Please remind your child:

- **They will need to wear a mask at school, except when engaged in active exercise or while eating or drinking.**
 - Masks should have at least two layers of tightly woven, breathable material and must fully cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face and around the nose.
 - The only exceptions are for children under 2 or anyone who has been told by a doctor that they cannot wear a mask safely. Note: people with most underlying conditions (asthma, for example) can safely wear masks but if you or your child can't, search ph.lacounty.gov/masks for alternatives.
- **They will be expected to follow the rules of social distancing.**
 - Student desks will be placed at least 3 feet from each other and 6 feet from the teacher's desk in the classroom. Outside the classroom, students will be instructed to stay 6 feet from other students and from teachers and staff.
- **They will be staying with the same group of classmates as much as possible during the day**
 - Students will be in class the same group of students each day, and as much as possible will remain with that group, even in physical education and at recess.
- **The school will be taking steps to avoid spread of the COVID-19 virus.**
 - Your child will receive textbooks and other supplies to use and keep at school. These items should not be shared.
 - Teachers will remind them to wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. School bathrooms will be cleaned often to keep students and staff safe.
- **Cafeterias will be open.**
 - As usual, meals and snacks will be offered, or students can bring lunch and snacks from home. The cafeteria will be set up to permit social distancing with a designated area for each classroom group.

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- Remind your child not to share or trade food or drinks.
- **Everyone at school will be expected to follow all rules and be respectful of others.**

For many children, it has been hard being away from classmates and teachers. It is exciting that they can finally attend school in person and enjoy group activities. Now it is up to all of us to make it work.

- If a teacher or school official reminds you or your child about social distancing or wearing a mask, remember that they are protecting you and your family, other students, all staff at the school, and the community.
- Students and families should follow the simple rules noted above; they are based on science and reflect research from all over the world about what it takes to stay safe.

**Finish out the school year strong!
Be smart, be safe, and have a great time.**